AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12, and 15-25 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~formulating~~ receiving a discovery information query;

retrieving one or more XML files stored on one or more network devices, each XML file containing discovery information of the network device on which the file is stored; and

searching the discovery information in the XML files based on the received query ~~sending said discovery information query to an extensible markup language (XML) based search engine to search for discovery information of at least one network device~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein searching the discovery information comprises searching via an XML-based search engine the discovery information in the XML files based on the query ~~further comprising retrieving discovery information from a discovery document on the at least one network device~~.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.

5. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving a discovery information query;

retrieving one or more extensible markup language (XML) files stored on one or more network devices, each XML file containing discovery information of the network device on which the file is stored; and

searching the discovery information in the XML files based on the received query ~~searching for discovery information of at least one network device using an extensible markup language (XML) based search engine~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 5, wherein searching the discovery information comprises searching via a search engine the discovery information in the XML files based on the query ~~further comprising formulating a discovery information query to be sent to the XML based search engine~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 6, wherein searching via a search engine the discovery information comprises searching via an XML-based search engine the discovery information in the XML files based on the query ~~5 further comprising retrieving discovery information from a discovery document on the network device~~.

8. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 7 further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

9. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 8 further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for receiving a discovery information query;

means for retrieving one or more extensible markup language (XML) files stored on one or more network devices, each XML file containing discovery information of the network device on which the file is stored; and

means for searching the discovery information in the XML files based on the received query ~~means for searching for discovery information of at least one network device using an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine~~.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for searching the discovery information comprises means for searching via a search engine the discovery information in the XML files based on the query ~~further comprising means for formulating a discovery information query to be sent to the XML-based search engine~~.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for searching the discovery information comprises means for searching via an XML-based search engine the discovery information in the XML files based on the query ~~further comprising means for retrieving discovery information from a discovery document on the network device~~.

13.   (Original)   The system of claim 12 further comprising means for manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 13 further comprising means for displaying the manipulated discovery information.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ system comprising:

a plurality of network devices, each network device including an extensible markup

language (XML) file that contains ~~based~~ discovery information; and

a search engine to search the discovery information of the XML files stored on the

network devices based on a received discovery information query.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein the search

engine is an XML-based search engine ~~said XML-based discovery information is in the form of~~

~~an XML file stored on said network device~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein at least one of

the network ~~device~~ devices is a router.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein at least one of

the network ~~device~~ devices is a switch.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein at least one of

the network ~~device~~ devices is a server.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein at least one of

the network ~~device~~ devices is a computer.

21.   (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the network ~~device~~ devices is a printer.

22.   (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the network ~~device~~ devices manages other network devices.

23.   (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 15 wherein the ~~XML-based~~ discovery information in the XML files includes data describing ~~the~~ capabilities of the network ~~device~~ devices.

24.   (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 23 wherein the ~~XML-based~~ discovery information in the XML files includes data describing ~~the location~~ locations of the network ~~device~~ devices.

25.   (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 23 wherein the ~~XML-based~~ discovery information in the XML files includes data describing ~~the type~~ types of the network ~~device~~ devices.